

REQUIRES MONITORING  
OR STAFF ACTION \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMISSION DIRECTIVE

ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	<u>March 7, 2006</u>
MOTOR CARRIER MATTERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	DOCKET NO.	<u>2005-270-G</u>
UTILITIES MATTERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		_____

**SUBJECT:**

DOCKET NO. 2005-270-G – Request for Investigation to Determine Whether a Regulation Should Be Promulgated Requiring Relocation of Certain Meter Sets or Installation of Splash Guards on These Meter Sets – A Hearing was held on this matter on January 19, 2006 – Discuss this matter with the Commission.

**COMMISSION ACTION:**

This docket involves a request for a determination as to the need to promulgate a regulation requiring South Carolina natural gas local distribution companies to reconfigure certain American Meter Company Type 12 gas meter sets or install splash guards on those meter sets. The evidence in this docket indicates that:

- In January of 2005, an incident occurred at a residence in North Augusta involving a Type 12 gas meter set in which the service regulator vent iced over at the time the residence's appliances were calling for gas. When the appliances no longer called for gas and the demand decreased, the regulator was unable to vent and, therefore, placed undue pressure on the piping system of the home. Consequently, a fire occurred which forced the resident to evacuate her home and caused significant damage.
- This incident is the only one that has occurred in South Carolina in the nearly 40 years these meter sets have been in service in the state.
- Even with only one incident, our regulated gas utilities and municipal natural gas suppliers recognized that while the probability of such an accident is extremely low, the potential consequences can be quite high. As a result, they voluntarily developed remediation programs to either install splash guards or reconfigure suspect meter sets.
- The Office of Regulatory Staff did not visit the site of the incident which is the genesis of this docket, but relied on reports of investigations conducted by other parties in reaching their conclusions and developing a course of action in response.
- The Office of Regulatory Staff issued an Advisory Bulletin to make operators aware of the potential hazard with Type 12 meter sets and asked the Operators to evaluate their systems. In addition, ORS is revising its inspection report to add a section asking operators about referenced meter sets on their systems and what actions they are taking to address the potential hazard pointed out in the Advisory Bulletin.
- SCE&G and other South Carolina natural gas suppliers have looked at all gas meter regulator sets on their respective systems for susceptibility to the conditions causing the incident with the so-called Type 12 meter set.

In light of these facts, **I move** that the Commission not promulgate a regulation requiring the installation of splash guards on American Meter Company Type 12 gas meter sets.

**I further move** that all regulated gas utilities and municipal natural gas suppliers expedite completion of their remediation programs to the extent possible.

**I further move** that all regulated gas utilities and municipal natural gas suppliers provide updates on the status of their remediation programs in six months concerning the progress of their remediation activities as well as the potential for expediting completion of their programs. This will provide natural gas operators and Commissioners an opportunity to discuss any concerns the operators or Commissioners may have with the remediation plans.

Also, **I move** that Staff be directed to consider the current relevance of the existing \$5000 reportability threshold for natural gas accidents in its upcoming review of all natural gas regulations, with an eye toward

lowering the threshold.

And, finally, **I move** that the Commission request ORS to conduct on-site investigations of any reportable incidents involving meter sets.

PRESIDING      Mitchell

	MOTION	YES	NO	OTHER
CLYBURN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
FLEMING	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HAMILTON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
HOWARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MITCHELL	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
MOSELEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
WRIGHT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent

Session:    Regular

Time of Session    2:30 PM

APPROVED ☐

APPROVED STC 30 ☐

DAYS

ACCEPTED FOR FILING ☐

DENIED ☐

AMENDED ☐

TRANSFERRED ☐

SUSPENDED ☐

CANCELED ☐

SET FOR HEARING ☐

ADVISED ☐

CARRIED OVER ☐

RECORDED BY      JBS

Commissioner Wright was on Annual Leave